

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



RECEIVED

APR 14 1938

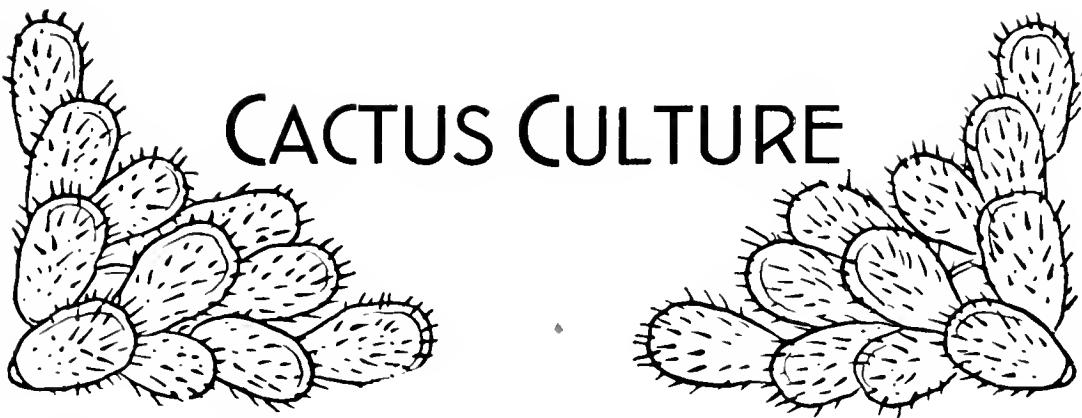
U. S. Department of Agriculture

# Cactus Plants of New Mexico



SOUTHWEST DESERT NURSERIES  
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO





# CACTUS CULTURE

A point in favor of the Cactus family for gardens of small size, and even for window gardening, is the simpleness of their requirements. Their tough-skinned, succulent stems enable them to live for an extraordinary length of time without water. They are children of the dry barren plains and mountain sides, living where scarcely any other form of vegetation could find nourishment, and thriving with the scorching heat of the sun over their heads, and their roots buried in the dry, hungry soil or rocks which afford them anchorage and food.

## NEEDS RESTING PERIOD

As stated before cactus is truly a child of the desert, having no leaves to shed to warn you that it is now ready for its dormant season of rest. Cactus as a rule is a glutton, drinking up moisture and food until some actually burst. This is handed down thru the surviving generations of these oft-time misunderstood plants. When the dry days and months of drouth are broken by a sudden hard rain most of the water running down the mountain slopes gives them little time to quench their parched thirst. When transplanted in sandy-leaf mold in deep containers giving natural growing conditions it is easy to give too much water.

## MOTHER EARTH

Cactus is very sensitive. We have laid plants out on sandy soil under a tree, not planted, just laying flat on soil, no water given and they lived six months; being transplanted then, they lived. At the same time we planted same varieties in heavy soil giving them water, and they rooted in thirty days. This happened twelve years ago just when we began studying cactus.

## WARIDAN CASES

Many of our readers will be acquainted with the neat little glass cases, like a greenhouse in shape, and filled with a collection of miniature Cacti. To the professional gardener, these cases are playthings, bearing about the same relation to

gardening as a child's doll house does to housekeeping. Yet they are the source of much pleasure, and even instruction, to many to whom a greenhouse is an impossibility. In these little cases it is possible to grow a collection of tiny Cacti for years, if only the operations of watering, potting, ventilating, and other matters are properly attended to.

### WINDOW RECESSES

Quite large specimens may be grown in windows with a south aspect attached to rooms where fires are kept burning during cold weather.

Keep the following in mind when caring for Cactus:

It does not like damp, chilly winds or damp, soggy soils. The warmer the weather the more water they need.

If possible, when you plant cactus in small pots always set pots on ground, or boxes filled with sand. This contacts the plants to the earths forces. Do not disturb the pots unnecessarily.

Our idea in printing this small pamphlet is to share with others our little knowledge of these desert plants. We are always glad to give information when we can.

### SEED

We plant seed in fall and spring both, making beds out in open, screened from mice, using leaf mold for bed on pure sand, mulching and leveling bed, sowing seed by hand. Take a hand rake and scratch over the seed, then covering with leaf mold one-fourth inch deep. Keep soil moist until seed comes up. Fall sowing of seeds does not come up until the following spring. When the warm sun heats the soil, they began to sprout in temperatures of sixty or seventy degrees. Often plenty of seed comes up the second year after planting, while at the same time some seed comes up in twelve days.

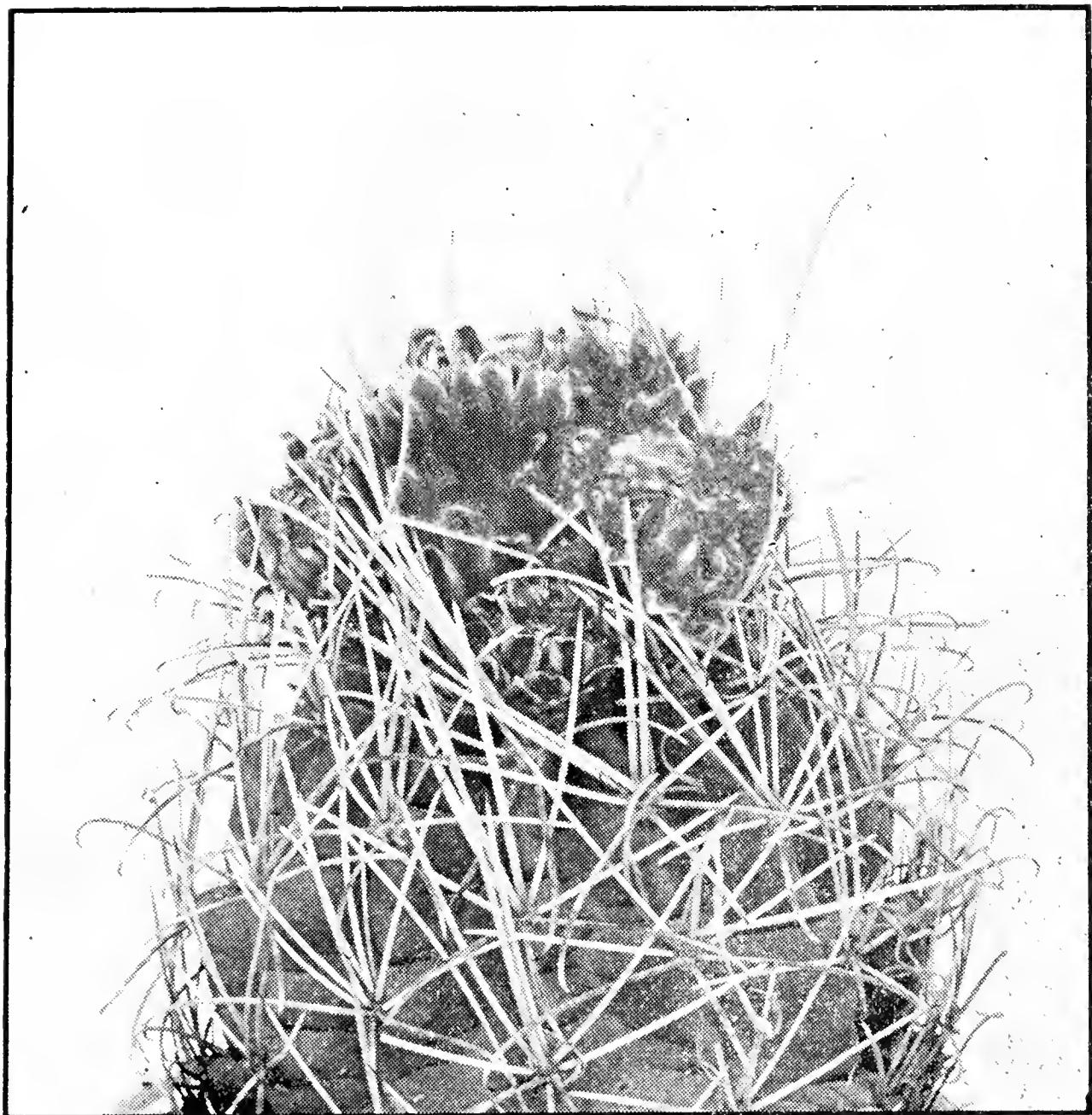
### FUTURE YEARS

In future seasons we hope to give the florist and cactus lover something new in the form of perfect small specimens at a price in reach of everyone who wishes to grow a cactus garden.

---

### DESERT HOLLY

To our many customers and friends who have written us in regard to "Desert Holly" are pleased to say we are experimenting on growing this plant and believe we can supply anyone with plants soon. Write for more information.



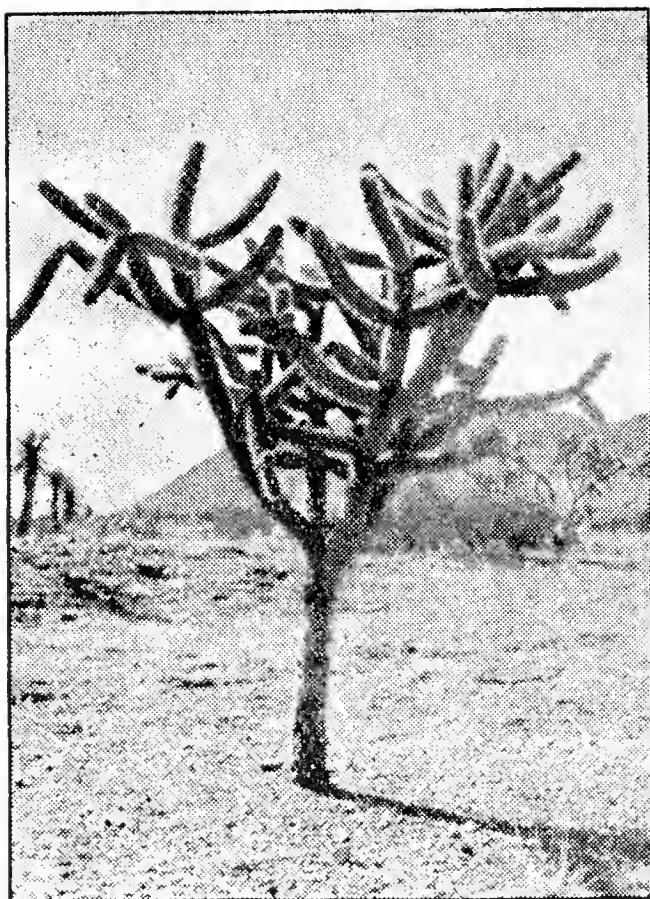
### **Echinocactus Uncinatus, A Rare Species**

The photograph shows how this cactus looks. Grows in limey sandy gravelly soil. Flowers dull brownish purple. Small 4-oz. plants ..... 50c postpaid.  
1-pound plants ..... \$1.00 postpaid.

---

### **Opuntia Ramosissima (Gila Monster)**

A stout bush cactus. The color makes you think of the Gila Monster lizard, very attractive and easy to grow in well drained sandy soil. Sample ..... 25c postpaid.



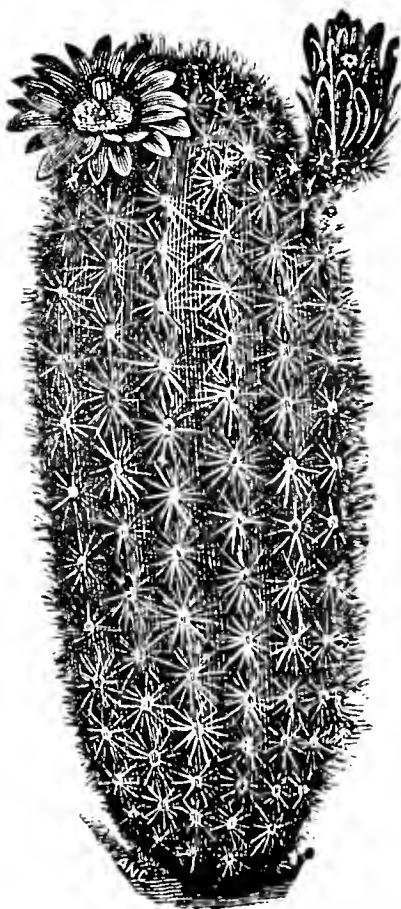
A Perfect 3-foot tree of the Cholla

**Opuntia Spinosior  
(Cholla)**

About the same as the O. Arborescens tree cactus, but is blue instead of green. 6-inch bushy plants **25c postpaid.**

Picture shows a 3-ft. plant which is about perfect. Can supply 1-ft. \$1.00, 3-ft. \$3.00, 1-oz. seed 50c **postpaid.**

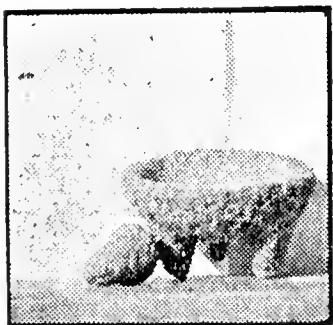
---



Echinocereus Viridiflorus

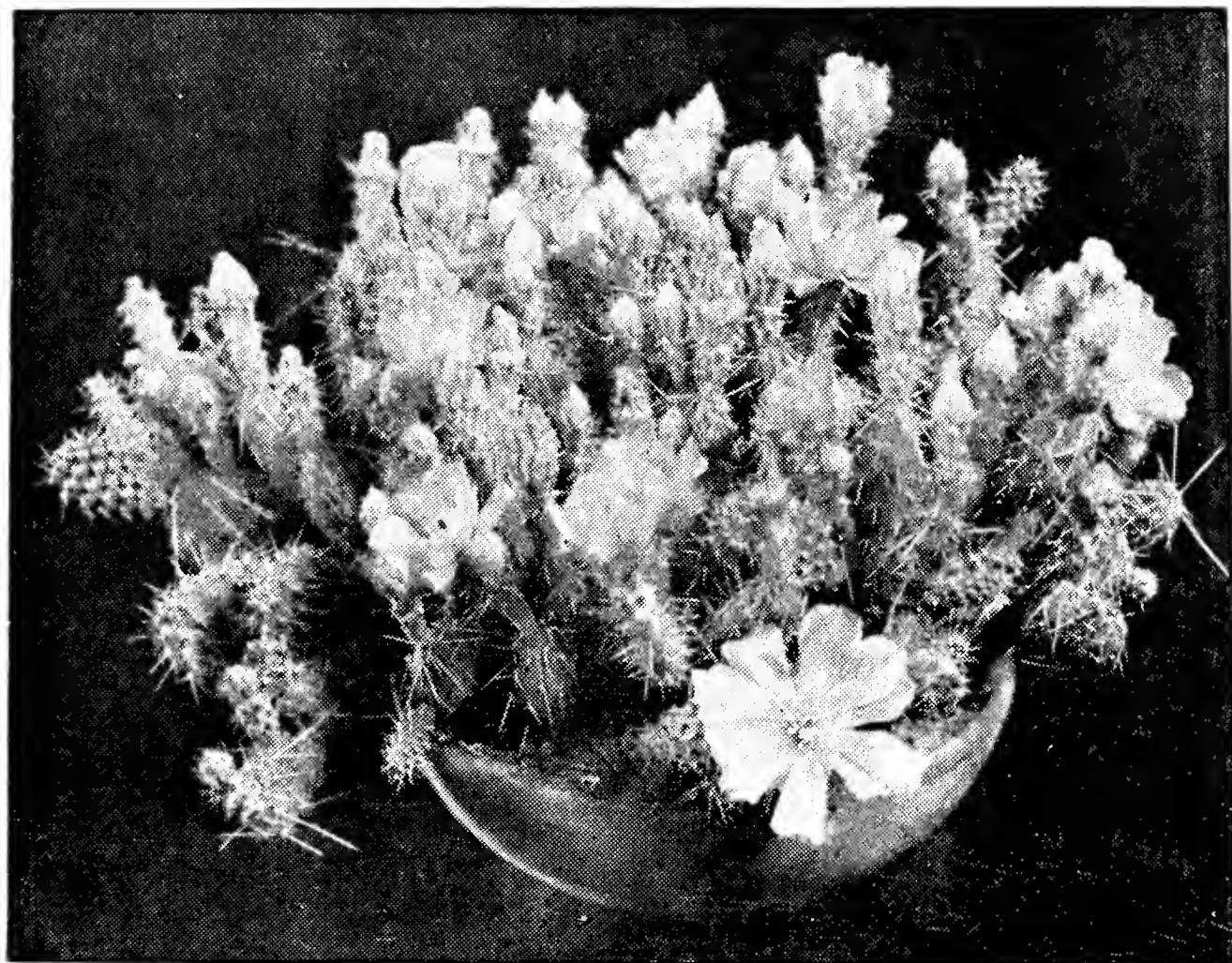
**Echinocereus Viridiflorus**

Puts on green blossoms, and thorns are laced. This cactus grows on high mountains and is scarce and changes to many colors during the seasons. Nice plants, 2 to 4-oz. .... **75c postpaid.**



Indian Grinding Rock

Indian grinding-rock Made in Mexico. 4 to 6-pound wt., 7-inch diameter, **75c f. o. b.**



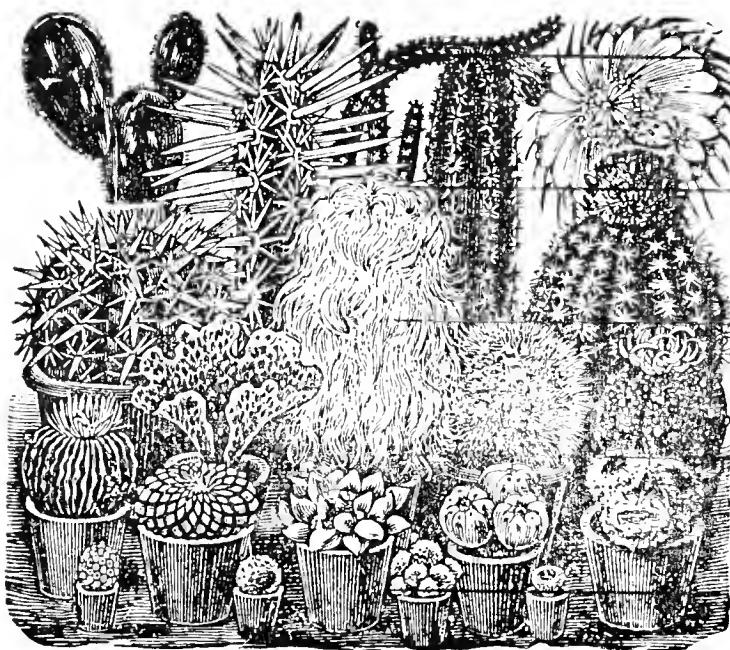
**Opuntia Arenaria**  
Growth of 2-Year-Old-Cutting

### **Opuntia Arenaria**

Opuntia Arenaria, meaning "River Bed" as it grows in loose, newly made drifting sands. This is one of the quickest growing miniature flat leaf Opuntias we have. The illustration is a picture showing the growth from one rooted cutting 3rd year from planting. Rooted cutting is about 1½ inches across, 2 or 3 inches high, ½ inch thick. We call this cactus a glutton as it actually bursts when given plenty of water and rich leaf mold soil WELL DRAINED. We plant about fifty thousand of these each season shipping the small well rooted cuttings wholesale, each small plant puts out one to five three-inch blossoms in April and May. Can contract to grow for fall and spring delivery. 1,000 well rooted, hard firm perfect plants only .....

**\$10.00 f. o. b. Las Cruces**

Sample of 20 plants ..... **\$1.00 postpaid**

**SPECIAL!**

20 mixed small named cacti, **\$1.00 postpaid.**

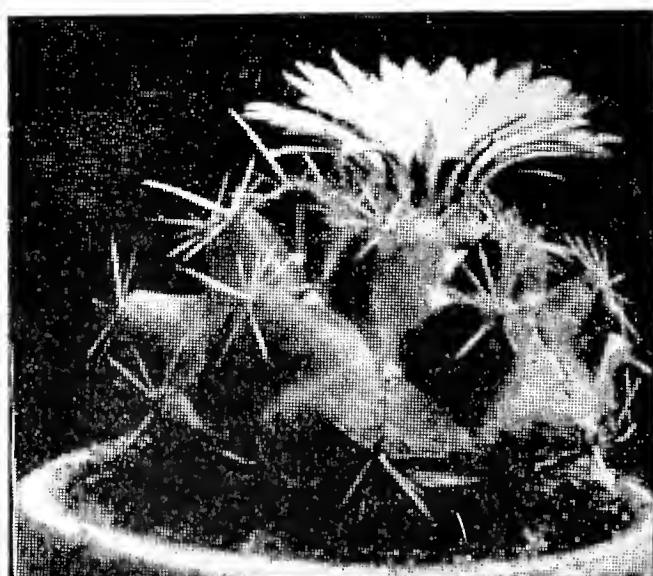
Have a limited amount of 1-oz. to 1-pound mixture of 10 to 15 varieties cacti Botanical named. 100, **\$3.00 f. o. b.**

**Cucurbita (Desert Gourd)**

Parantal roots, grows 6 feet deep, 6 inches thru, roots also make a soap, but is so ill-scented we do not use. Vines make an enormous growth (rank growth) during spring, summer, winter kills but come out from roots each spring. Plant in high well drained soil. Sample package seed ..... **25c postpaid.**

**Coryphantha Muehlen-**  
**fordtii. (Formerly Called**  
**Scheerii.)**

Very scarce. Flora of New Mexico. U. S. publication says this is one of the Southwest's most interesting cactus for indoor pot culture. Consecutive blossoms Summer and Fall, grows in old settled loose sands in bare places, extra plump, green and very attractive. About next season can wholesale a few of these as we are planting 15,000 seed. 4-oz. blooming size, **\$1.00 postpaid.**

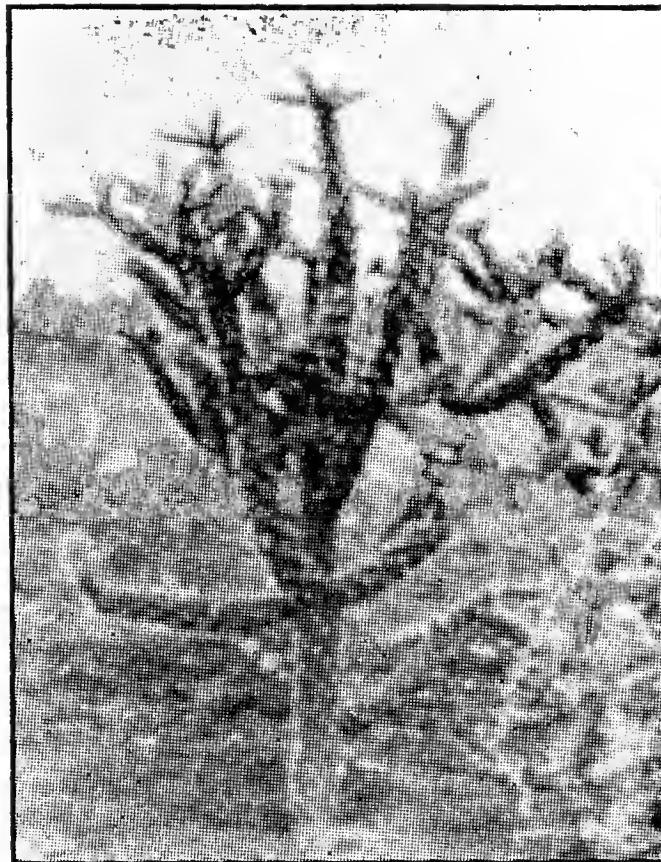


**Coryphantha Muehlenfordtii**  
**Two-Year Seedling**

**Opuntia Arborescens  
(O. Imbricata)**

**Tree Cactus**

Grows to heights of ten feet with equal spread of branches, having hundreds of bright purple blossoms in June. Easy to grow plant in leaf mold or sandy loam. We make a specialty of growing this cactus for wholesale and can supply 3 or 4-inch, not branched 1,000, **\$10.00**  
**f. o. b.** 5 to 6 inches, branched, 1,000, **\$15.00**  
**f. o. b.** 4 to 6 inches, branched, 100, **\$2.00**, 20 samples, mixed sizes **\$1.00**  
**postpaid.** Extra selected



**Opuntia Arborescens  
3 feet high**

**Agave Parryi**

Similar to Maguey, but smaller and native of U. S.. Makes a nice decorative plant planted in large urns. Grows where there is zero weather. Small plants ..... **50c postpaid.**

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

Below is a list of cactus seed we can supply with prices: Please note the low priced seed is our native and easiest grown seed collected. On the other hand, the thimbleful is native plants also, but seed is small and expensive to collect and cure.

Later we can, on request, furnish data of the days it takes to germinate these seeds.

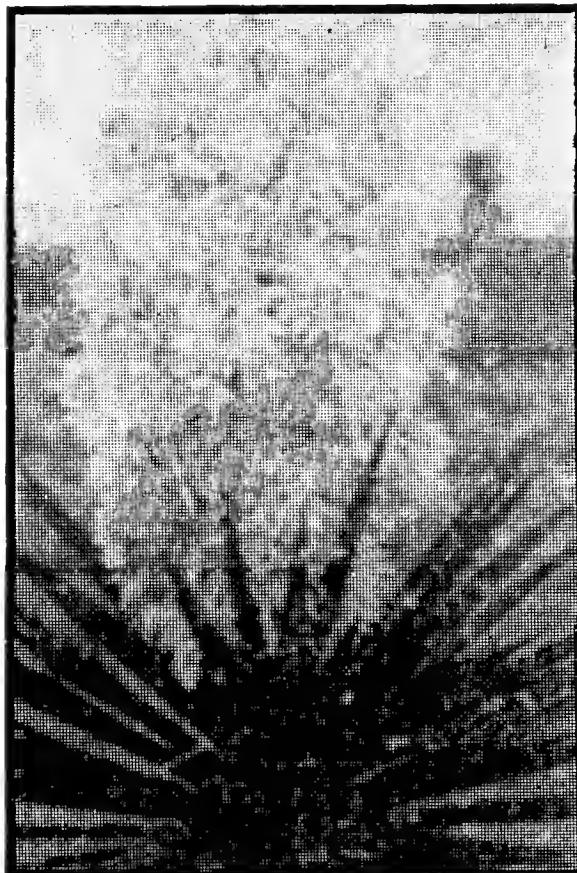
O. Arenaria—1-pound .....	<b>\$3.00 postpaid.</b>
O. Arborescens tree cactus—1-pound .....	<b>\$2.00 postpaid.</b>
O. Clavata—1-ounce .....	<b>\$1.00 postpaid.</b>
O. Lindheimeri (Tunia)—1-ounce .....	<b>50c postpaid.</b>
F. Wislizeni—per pound .....	<b>\$2.25 postpaid.</b>

Can supply other rare plant seeds from our cactus at **25c** per package for liberal mixture of seeds of all our varieties of cactus. Write for special seeds of any desert plant you may have in mind.

---

Nice mixture of new, clean cactus seed with directions how to plant.	Per pound .....	<b>\$3.00 postpaid.</b>
Per ounce .....	<b>50c postpaid</b>	
Seed package .....	<b>10c postpaid</b>	

---



Spanish Dagger

**Spanish Dagger**

Light green long (Bayonet) leaves. Natives use the spear leaves to make thread. Shallow rooted plants growing to weigh 300 pounds. Stands 5 degrees above zero. 10-pound plants .....

**\$3.00**

**Opuntia Limdheimeri (Mexican Tuna)**

A perfect flat, round leaf (thick) opuntia. Natives in Mexico use the fruit for food, wines, etc. Seedling is a fat perfect plant for the florist to pot. Being extra hardy it makes a quick growth. We always sell all we have of these odd seedlings, and can't guarantee to have in stock at all times, but can always have samples to show and contract for future deliveries.

1,000 neat, baby fat, 2 to 3-inch plants .....

**\$15.00**

Sample of 20 .....

**\$1.00 postpaid.**

**Neomexicana Meiacantha (Strawberry)**

Turnip shaped root, grows flush in sandy soil. Puts on bright red fruit during winter. Scarce. Sample .....

**75c postpaid.**

**Burbank Thornless (?) Opuntia (?) (Names unkown to us)**  
Large thornless leaves, 4 to 6 inches in diameter. Rooted cuttings .....

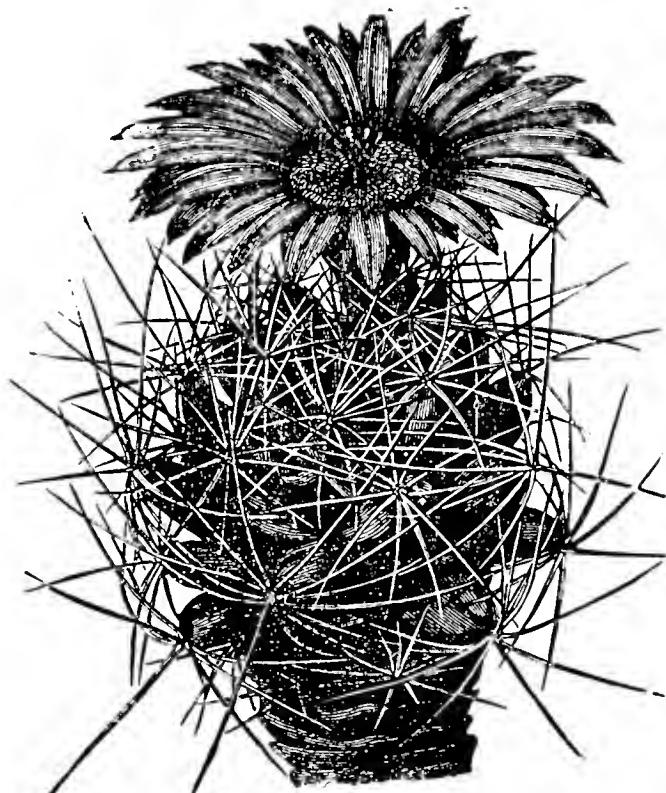
**50c postpaid.**

**Coryphantha Macromeris**  
 A loose forming cluster cactus, grows in hard freezing weather in sandy soil. Single plants, 50c postpaid.

**Echinocactus  
Horizonthalonius**

Grows in lime formations well drained. Don't plant in heavy soil. Large bright flowers. 4 or 8 oz. plants 50c postpaid.

**Coryphantha Neomexicana (Radiosa)**  
 One of our hardest cactus, lace thorns, small bulbs, a perfect round, fawn color in appearance. Rare. Sample plants, 50c postpaid.



Coryphantha Macromeris

**Echinocereus Rosei**

Grows 18 inches high, forming several plants in clusters. Sample 4 to 6-oz. by mail ..... 75c postpaid.

Display plant 4 to 6-pound, 75c f. o. b.



Echinocereus Rosei

**Echinocereus Polycanthus**

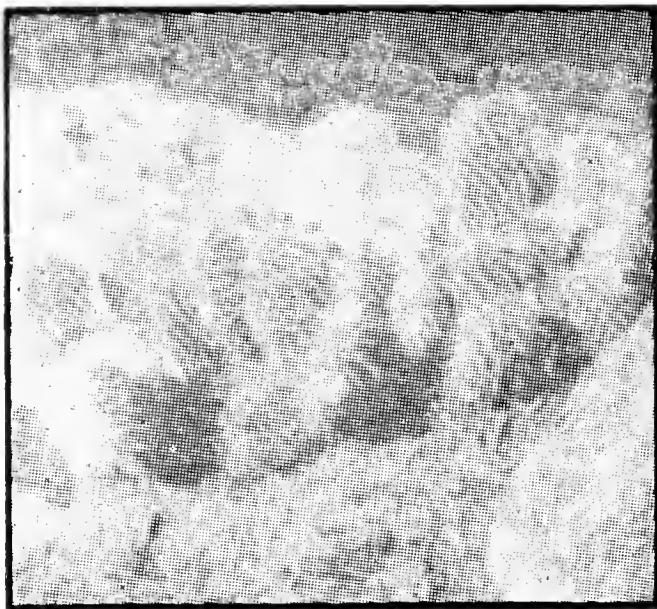
Forms large heavy clusters, large bright red blossoms. 8-oz. to 16-oz. plants ..... 75c postpaid.  
 5-pound cluster ..... 75c f. o. b.

**Opuntia Chlorotica, Fan-Tree Cactus**

Has short, clear yellow spines. Color is very bright, and shows up at a distance. The leaves are hard and woody. The only Opuntia that is known that cannot be rooted from cuttings. Very rare. Sample 6 to 8-oz. to pound plant ..... \$1.50 postpaid

**Coryphantha Macromeras (Button Cactus)**

Small white button cactus. Very easy to grow ..... 50c postpaid.



Opuntia Missouriensis

**Opuntia Missouriensis**

(Polyacantha)

Zero weather, flat leaf with many white or reddish long thorns. An odd plant for your collection  
4-oz. rooted cutting **50c postpaid.**

**Mexican Maguey**

Our largest maguey, often growing to weigh 1000 pounds. A native of Mexico. It is used to manufacture "pulque mescal", and "tequila" in Mexico. Very easily grown. Plant in large tubs and keep from hard freezing in winter, very attractive out of doors in summer, indoors during winter. Supposed to blossom in one century, but have known them to blossom within fifteen years of age. Small plants ..... **35c postpaid.**  
25-pound plants well packed ..... **\$5.\*\* f. o. b.**

**Agave Lechuguilla**

Grows 12 inches high with many spiked leaves| Used in Mexico to make cordage. 3-inch plants ..... **25c postpaid.**

**Agave Neomexicana (Century Plant)**

Very attractive with many black tipped horns like spikes at end of broad saw-teeth leaves. 4-inch plants ..... **25c postpaid.**  
100 small plants ..... **\$3.00 postpaid.**  
Large 12-inch plant ..... **\$1.00 f. o. b.**

**Echinocereus Dasyacanthus**

Some times called rainbow cactus as it changes color. 3-inch neat plants ..... **25c postpaid.**

**Opuntia Linguiformis**

Commonly known as "Cow's Tongue". Leaves shaped like cow's tongue. 3 to 4 inches wide, three feet long. 1-pound rooted cuttings ..... **\$1.00 postpaid.**

**Ocotillo (Crown of Thorns)**

Small plants ..... **\$1.00 postpaid.**  
5-ft. with many branches ..... **\$3.00 f. o. b.**

•  
**CRISP MISTLETOE  
KEEP FROM HEAT**  
•



Mistletoe and Crate

**Mistletoe (*Phoradendron Macrophyllum*)**

Grows on our soft cottonwood trees, insuring large foliage and berries: We ship first grade material. Write for price list. We ship in light neat 12½ pound cases. Note wreath make from our Valley mistletoe, large white berries and full large leaves.



**Fairy Cress**

Diamond drills will not cut the material these crosses are formed of. We believe it is the hardest material in the world. Sample cross, **50c postpaid**.

**Opuntia Olliver**

Forms potatoes for roots, storing up water for the drouth. Potatoes have regular eyes same as the eating potato, and each eye will shoot forth a cactus stalk. When three years old the thorns mature and they are the hardest and sharpest thorns of any cactus we have ever been punctured with. Grows in almost any well drained soil. Sample potato, and if possible one with a small plant growing ..... **25c postpaid**.



4- by 7-inch Feather Card

### Mexican Feather Birds

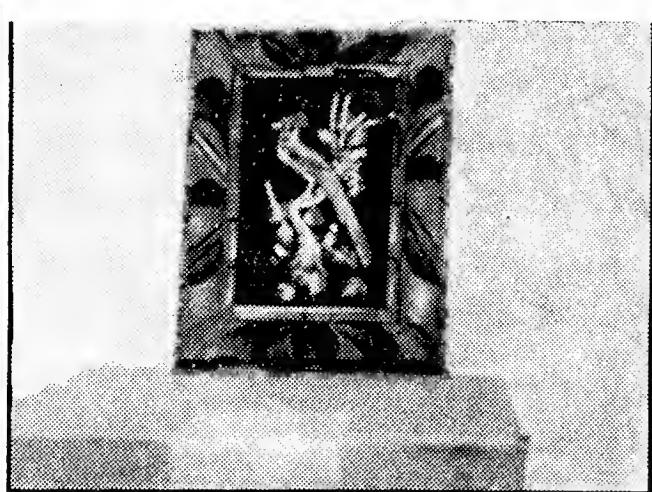
It is impossible to describe on paper the beauty of these bright colored Feather Birds: made, we might state by the lost race. This work is hand made. The art has been handed down from the Aztec Indians of the Southwest, and we believe this is the last of the people who have the patience to hand-make fine art such as these birds—made from feathers in perfect shape and color and glued to cards.

Large cards 20 inches high by 10 inches wide ----- \$3.00 postpaid.

4 by 7-inch cards, several different birds each ----- 50c postpaid.

Perfect shaped miniature cards, each 10c.

Dozen, ----- \$1.00 postpaid.



### Feather Bird and Hand-carved Cedar Frame

The illustration is our best bargain, and will solve your gift problem. The frame is hand carved from pure cedar, a work of art in itself—6 by 8 inches, with Feather Bird placed inside, all postpaid for only \$1.00. You may mail us your order and have this beautiful framed picture sent to your friends, mailing your card to be enclosed or having us write your compliments for you, which we will be glad to do. In this way you will have an envied valuable gift placed in the hand of your friend without bother or worry to you. You can book your order to be mailed at any date to the party—for instance you wish to give several Christmas gifts to friends. You mail your order to us in November or 1st of December, and we will mail packages to reach the parties Christmas or their birthday, etc.

Mail your dollar today and we will do the rest.



**Seed Pod and Hooked  
Thorn from F. Wislizeni**

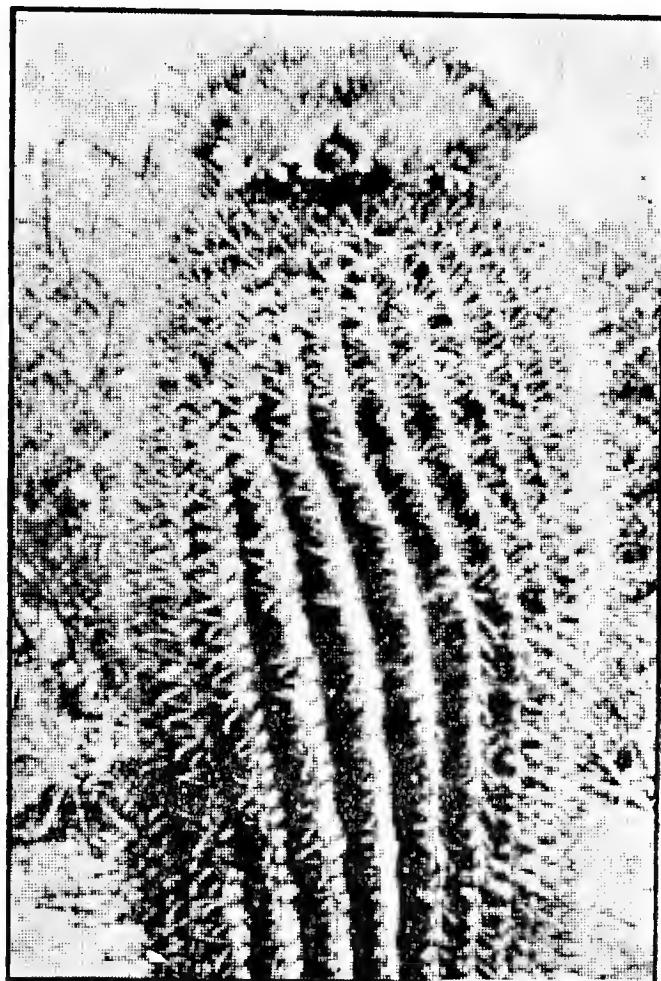
The pod is full of small black seed. Fresh seed, 1 pound ..... **\$3.00 postpaid.**  
Seed pods used for Canary bird seed.

Pods shipped September to March, each **3c postpaid**

**Ferocactus Wislizeni—**

**Candy Cactus**

The plant in picture is 4 feet high; weight about 300 pounds. It has the fish-hook thorns and candy is made from the meat. Small 3 to 5-pound plants, **\$1.50 postpaid.** 25-pound plant, **\$3.00 f. o. b.**



**Ferocactus Wislizeni**

**Opuntia Leptoculis (Bush Cactus)**

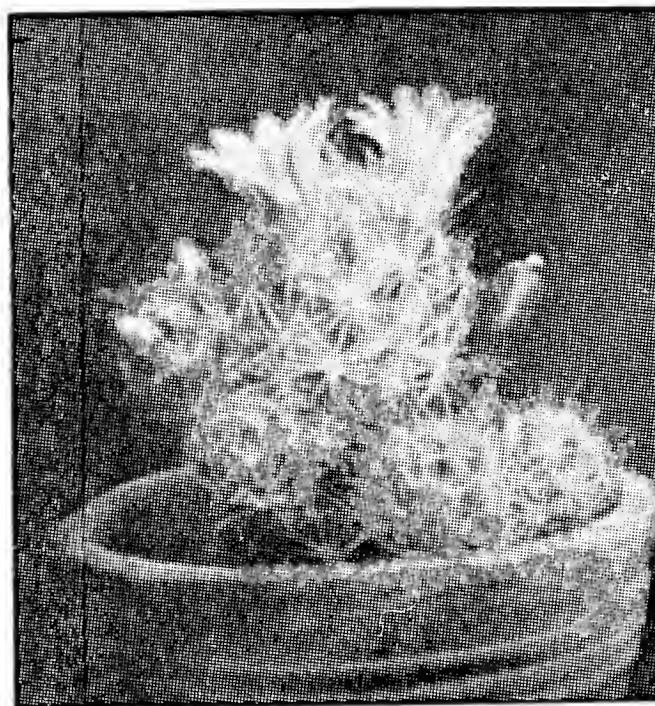
Three-weeks-old rooted cuttings, easy to grow. These bushes put on hundreds of red seed berries during fall and winter.	
5-inch bushy bush .....	<b>25c postpaid.</b>
Cuttings not rooted 100 .....	<b>50c postpaid.</b>
12 seeds .....	<b>10c</b>

**Opuntia Clavata**

Lives out doors in zero weather. The lowliest cactus, as it crawls on the ground when the plant gets too heavy to hold the growth up. We believe this will be one of the best saleable cactus the florist can handle. Something new in the seedling line and no one has grown this plant from seed before. The small hard, neat trunk and the heavy top is made up of small balls. 1 oz. seed ..... **\$1.00 postpaid.**

**Echinocereus Stramineus**

One of our largest cluster growing cactus, grows on lime gravely hills, and not easy to get small plants. (5-inch bright red blossoms). 1 or 3-pound plants ..... **\$1.00 postpaid.**



**Echinocerus Pussilla**  
Rare plant growing on top of mountains among rocks and moss. 50c postpaid.

### **Opuntia Dulcis**

The largest, heaviest Opuntia leaves in Southwest. Write for our list of seedlings.

### **Collectors Collection**

Collection of thirty or more varieties of cacti. Guaranteed nice plants ..... \$10.00 f. o. b.

### **Echinocereus Fendleri**

Five inch purple blossoms, one of our hardest cactus; grows in single plants and clusters. Is the only cactus that we have ever seen that grows in adobe (heavy soil)... Seems to be adapted to any locality. 4 to 8 ounce ..... 75c postpaid.

### **Yucca Elata**

State flower of New Mexico. This plant has considerable decorative values, but because of its large roots is difficult to transplant. We have a few seedlings with small roots at \$1.00 each, postpaid.

### **E. Tuberculosa**

Grows in lime rocky soil, but hard to transplant and live. We don't recommend its culture for amateurs. Sample 25c postpaid.



6-in. Branched O. Arborescens, and  
4-in. not branched

bushy 4 to 8-inch plants  
1,000 ..... \$20.00 f. o. b.  
3-ft. tree ..... \$1.00 f. o. b.

#### **E. Grahamii**

Small black-hooked thorns, other thorns are white, forms ring two-thirds up on plant of small light pretty flowers. Grows in heavy lime formed soil. Sample ..... 50c postpaid.

#### **Opuntia Macrodasys**

A native of California. Short, yellow spines, very neat. Sometimes called the "Bunny-Ear". 4-ounce plant ..... 25c postpaid.

#### **Opuntia Elata**

Native of California. Dark green, very few thorns. 2-oz. rooted cutting, 25c postpaid.

#### **Opuntia Humifusa**

Extreme northern grown. Dark green, flat, round leaf, 3 inches across. Very hardy. 2-oz. rooted cuttings ..... 50c postpaid.

#### **Opuntia rufida**

Brown, yellowish, round leaves. Native of California. Three to four ounce rooted cutting, postpaid ..... 50c

#### **Echinocereus Chloranthus**

Very hardy, puts on ring of green blossoms. Sample ..... 25c postpaid



**Echinocereus Pectinatus**

Whitish plants with net-laced thorns. We have only a few.  
Ea. .... **75c postpaid**



Preparing Amole Root

---

**REFERENCES**

Dunn & Bradstreet  
First National Bank, Las Cruces  
Mesilla Valley Credit Ass'n, Las Cruces



Horned Toad  
A Western Animal  
(Not for sale)



